

Appn. No. 09/986,336
Amd. dated November 12, 2003
Reply to Office Action of September 24, 2003

REMARKS

Claims 21-27 and 35 currently appear in this application. The Office Action of September 24, 2003, has been carefully studied. These claims define novel and unobvious subject matter under Sections 102 and 103 of 35 U.S.C., and therefore should be allowed. Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration, entry of the present amendment, and formal allowance of the claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 30 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Accordingly, claim 30 has been rewritten as new claim 35. It is respectfully submitted that new claim 35 contains all of the limitations of claim 30.

Claim Objections

Claims 21 and 28 are objected to because of a self-evident typographical error and the "adapted to" limitations.

Claim 21 has been amended in accordance with the Examiner's helpful suggestions. Claim 28 has been cancelled by the present amendment.

Appn. No. 09/986,336
Amd. dated November 12, 2003
Reply to Office Action of September 24, 2003

Art Rejections

Claims 28-29 and 31-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hayes in view of Nakashima et al.

As the present amendment cancels claims 28-29 and 31-34, this rejection is now moot.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are now in condition for allowance, and favorable action thereon is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

BROWDY AND NEIMARK, P.L.L.C.
Attorneys for Applicant

By


Anne M. Kornbau
Registration No. 25,884

AMK:zv
Telephone No.: (202) 628-5197
Facsimile No.: (202) 737-3528
G:\BN\D\dire\1IN176\pto\AMD12Nov03.doc